

**β -CYCLODEXTRIN COMPOSITIONS, AND USE TO PREVENT
TRANSMISSION OF SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES**

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

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Methods of reducing the risk of transmission of a sexually transmitted pathogen by contacting the pathogen or cells susceptible to infection by the pathogen with a β -cyclodextrin are provided. Methods for reducing the risk of transmission of a sexually transmitted pathogen to or from a subject by contacting the pathogen or

10 cells susceptible to the pathogen in the subject with a pharmaceutical composition containing a β -cyclodextrin also are provided. Accordingly, pharmaceutical compositions, which include 1) a β -cyclodextrin, which is in an amount that blocks passage of the pathogen through lipid rafts in the membrane of a cell susceptible to the pathogen, and 2) a contraceptive, an agent for treating a sexually transmitted

15 disease, a lubricant, or a combination thereof, are provided, as are composition formulated from a solid substrate that contains an amount of β -cyclodextrin useful for reducing the risk of transmission of a sexually transmitted pathogen.